

CLAIMS

What I claim is:

1. A forced hot air ice cream scoop for facilitating the removal of ice cream from a container, comprising:
 - a handle portion having a first end and a distal end;
 - an air passageway inlet and outlet proximate the first end of the handle portion;
 - a body having a ladle disposed on the distal end of the handle portion;
 - an air passageway extending from the inlet of the handle portion to the ladle and back to the outlet of the handle portion, wherein the passageway is in fluid connection with the inlet and the outlet; and
 - a heater including:
 - a heating element for generating heat;
 - a blower for distributing the heat as hot air;
 - a hot air outlet, coupled to said inlet of the handle portion of the ice cream scoop when said handle is inserted in a handle receiving port of said heater; and
 - a hot air return inlet, coupled to said outlet of the handle of said ice cream scoop when said handle is inserted in said handle receiving port of said heater, said heater inlet, outlet, and handle inlet and outlet forming a hot air passageway

for allowing hot air to flow through the passageway, thereby heating the ladle.

2. The forced hot air ice cream scoop of claim 1 wherein the hot air has a temperature.

3. The forced hot air ice cream scoop of claim 2 further including a temperature sensing device for sensing the temperature of the hot air and an adjustable temperature setting device, operatively mounted to the heater, for adjusting the temperature of the hot air.

4. The forced hot air ice cream scoop according to claim 1, further comprising a micro-switch, for allowing and precluding hot air flow to the passageway.

5. The forced hot air ice cream scoop according to claim 2, wherein the ladle is concave shaped.

6. The forced hot air ice cream scoop according to claim 4, wherein the ladle is metal.

7. The forced hot air ice cream according to claim 4,
further including ladle passageways in fluid connection with the
passageway.

8. The forced hot air ice cream scoop according to claim 5,
further including a power cord electrically connected between a
power source and the heater.

9. The forced hot air ice cream scoop according to claim 7,
further including an on/off switch, for providing or precluding
power to the heater.

10. A method of forcing hot air through a ladle of an ice cream scoop, the acts comprising:

- generating hot air from a heating element of a heater;
- sensing a temperature of the hot air;
- regulating the temperature of the hot air with an adjustable temperature setting device;
- distributing the hot air via a blower from the heater to the ice cream scoop via a passageway in a handle portion and the ladle of the ice cream scoop;
- heating the ladle with the hot air in the passageway; and
- returning the hot air from the ladle to the heater.